

always is, that cloture could be invoked, especially if there is the ability for us to vote on unemployment insurance. We have not completely vetted that with the caucus.

One point that weighs favorably at least on this Senator's mind is that the distinguished majority leader said on more than one occasion that when and if cloture is invoked we would have the opportunity to debate germane amendments. We have a handful of germane amendments. No one will be trying to use a lot of time, but I think the time on most of our germane amendments would be 5 minutes, 20 minutes, 30 minutes—not very much time. So we could do those quickly.

One of the concerns—and certainly the majority leader has never done this, and it hasn't been done for a number of years—if it is possible even postcloture to cut off people from offering germane amendments. I think the majority leader said on Friday that germane amendments would be allowed. That is a step in the right direction, not only for completing this bill but for future work in the Senate. It would be a bad thing if cloture were invoked, people anticipating they could offer their germane amendments, and then we go into a 30-hour quorum call. That would not set the right tone.

I appreciate the attitude and the remarks of the Senator regarding what would happen if cloture is invoked. I think that weighs heavily in favor of some people perhaps voting for cloture on this bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

ORDER FOR FILING OF AMENDMENTS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, Senators have until 3:30 p.m. today in order to file first-degree amendments to S. 1637.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ABUSE OF IRAQI PRISONERS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, again, we will be voting somewhere around 5:30 p.m. today. We expect formal introduction of the resolution after more discussions over the course of the next several minutes.

I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the substance of the resolution that will condemn the abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison and the details of the resolution we will talk about later on the Senate floor. It all focuses on the fact that this Nation, our colleagues, this body is shocked, is disturbed, is saddened by the incidents that have occurred at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. These acts are deplorable. There is absolutely no excuse for what happened to those Iraqi prisoners.

The individuals who committed those despicable acts must be and will be

held accountable. Justice must be served in a swift manner, in a fair manner, and in a transparent manner, and it will be. It is crucial that we get all the facts out quickly and thoroughly, and that is underway—never as quickly as people would like, but everyone, I believe, in their heart of hearts understands the importance of getting the facts out quickly and thoroughly.

I commend the President of the United States for his efforts to reach out to the Arab world to address this matter, particularly the apologies he offered to the victims and their families.

I am sure all Americans share his sentiments which he articulated so well. The Senate, too, will do its part to ensure the administration fully investigates the abuses at Abu Ghraib. By investigating the abuses committed at the prison, we recognize specific individuals are responsible for specific acts. By doing so, we recognize the vast majority of men and women in uniform every day promote the values and the principles we all hold so dear.

I would also like to highlight the work of the Department of Defense. After receiving a report from a concerned soldier, the Department of Defense promptly took action to investigate the allegations of abuse. The first investigation was initiated in January. More investigations followed and many are still ongoing. The military is examining its policy, its procedures, and its training with regard to the handling of prisoners and the management of detention facilities. These are the right and proper actions to be taken.

We do not yet know the full story. That is frustrating. It is frustrating for us in this body and for members of the administration. That investigation is underway. From what people have said, more disturbing stories and pictures will, in fact, find their way into the public domain. I have faith the administration will fully investigate these incidents and will report to us its findings.

In the meantime, the Senate will continue to do its duty. We had several hearings last week. We will continue to maintain a close watch on the unfolding situation. The appropriate committees of the Senate will fulfill their proper oversight roles. The Intelligence Committee and the Armed Services Committee both conducted hearings last week. More are planned, and briefings are at this very moment being scheduled.

Success in our national security policy depends on regular communication between the executive branch and Congress and ultimately the American people. I pledge to work with my colleagues and the administration to ascertain the truth and take action to ensure such appalling acts will never, ever happen again.

America is a nation governed by the rule of law. We hold accountable those who break the law. As the President has said, democracy is not perfect and

indeed we make mistakes, but openness is a hallmark of that democracy, and as a democracy we will investigate and we will correct those mistakes.

The people of Iraq did not know justice under Saddam. His regime was born in violence and ruled by fear. Let us take this opportunity to show the Iraqi people and the world that America protects the rights of individuals. Let us show the world we can and will administer justice swiftly, fairly, and openly. We cannot undo the abuse those Iraqi prisoners suffered, but through our actions now we can show the Iraqi people the transgressions of a few do not represent America. They do not represent what we stand for as Americans.

Today the Senate will take up a bipartisan resolution which commends the noble work of our forces and condemns in the strongest manner possible the few who have disgraced themselves and brought shame to their fellow Americans. I urge my colleagues to unanimously pass this resolution this afternoon. I believe it is imperative that we speak with one voice, united in strength and united in purpose.

By passing this resolution, this body will show its resolve to pursue the truth and protect our national security. We will also show the world America believes such acts as occurred at Abu Ghraib must never happen again. Our soldiers are risking their lives in Iraq to bring peace and freedom to a country that has known neither. Our service men and women have worked tirelessly to build schools, rebuild hospitals, repair electricity grids and water lines, and to ensure food and water are available. We have seen innumerable acts of kindness and bravery from our soldiers on behalf of the Iraqi people. That is who we are and this resolution acknowledges their service.

We are engaged in a noble cause. We must see it through. The Iraqi people are depending on us to stay the course and the American people are depending on us to show courage, resolve, and leadership.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

PLAN OF OBSTRUCTIONISM

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, like all of my colleagues, I am enormously proud to serve in the Senate. It is a unique and special privilege. I come from a small town of 300 people in the southwestern ranching country of North Dakota. Some of my colleagues come from big towns, some of them from family farms. We come from different parts of America to convene here and do public policy. I am enormously proud of this institution, but there are times when I see what is rancid, partisan, bare-knuckle politics played in this town that begin to bother me.

I am big enough to understand politics can be tough. I have been in politics a long while and I think most of